

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention provides a pre-expanded tampon
pledget formed from cellulosic absorbent fibers. The fibers are
5 not tightly compressed, thus, the pledget has a reduced fiber
density. As a result, a softer, more pliable pledget is formed
that not only increases user comfort during use, but also
affords a user with comparable and/or increased leakage
protection over conventional tampons or tampon pledgets.